United Nations E/CN.6/2007/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 December 2006

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-first session
26 February-9 March 2007
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child;
      (ii) Evaluation of progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-first session.

06-65725 (E) 281206

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and pursuant to Council resolution 1987/21 and decision 2002/234,[1] the Commission on the Status of Women at the first meeting of its fiftieth session, on 22 March 2005, elected, by acclamation, Carmen María Gallardo (El Salvador) as Chairperson, and Adekunbi Abibat Sonaike (Nigeria), Szilvia Szabo (Hungary), Dicky Tomar (Indonesia) and Thomas Woodroffe (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as Vice-Chairpersons, of the fiftieth and fifty-first sessions of the Commission. At its 2nd meeting, on 27 February 2006, the Commission appointed Mr. Tomar (Indonesia) to serve also as Rapporteur of its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions.

The Commission shall appoint two candidates to fill the pending vacancies on the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-first session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2006/235.

Preparations for the fifty-first session of the Commission were undertaken in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on methods of work and Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/9. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held several meetings as well as informal briefings and consultations with all interested delegations to consider the organization and methods of work for the session.

As per past practice, statements delivered by representatives of delegations of members and observers of the Commission during general discussions shall be limited to five minutes, and statements made on behalf of groups of delegations to 10 minutes. It is also recommended that interventions from non-governmental organizations be integrated into the general debate and in thematic panel discussions in a geographically balanced manner.

[1] In accordance with Council decision 2002/234, the Commission immediately following the closure of its fifty-first session will hold the first meeting of its fifty-second session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairperson and other members of the Bureau for the fifty-second and fifty-third sessions.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

High-level round table

In its decision 46/101, the Commission decided that, starting from its forty-seventh session, it would introduce the option of high-level round tables, and it authorized the Bureau to decide, after consultation with all interested members of the Commission through the regional groups, on the number, timing and theme of any such round tables.

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council further decided that the annual interactive high-level round table would focus on experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data, where available, in relation to the implementation of previous commitments made with regard to the priority theme.

The high-level round table, at the fifty-first session, will focus on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.

Documentation

Discussion guide on the high-level round table — Note by the Bureau (E/CN.6/2007/CRP.4)

Priority theme

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Commission's proposed future organization and methods of work. Accordingly, at its fifty-first session, the Commission will consider the theme "The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child". In the same resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on the priority theme including proposals for possible indicators, elaborated in cooperation with the Statistical Commission, to measure progress in implementation with regard to the priority theme. The report of the Secretary-General will be before the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child (E/CN.6/2007/2)

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council requested the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women, prior to each session, to identify, in consultation with all States, through their regional groups, an emerging issue for consideration by the Commission, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives was required.

Further to its consultations, the Bureau recommends that the Commission hold an interactive expert panel on the emerging issue theme "Elimination of all forms of violence against women: follow-up to the Secretary-General's in-depth study at national and international levels".

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme

The Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme (Council resolution 2006/9).

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

In its resolution 2006/8 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means and to submit to the Commission at its fifty-first session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution.

Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

In its resolution 2006/7 on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, the Economic and Social Council invited the Secretary-General to take into account a gender perspective when preparing the reports requested by the General Assembly in its resolutions 60/32 A and B and to include a specific and substantive section focusing on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan in those reports. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to transmit those reports to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-first session.

Joint workplan on the human rights of women

In accordance with resolution 39/5 of the Commission on the Status of Women and resolutions 1997/43 and 2005/42 of the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women will have before it a report on the joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Violence against women

In resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested UNIFEM to include in its regular reports information regarding its

activities, including the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for information. The report of the Committee on its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions and a note transmitting the results of the Committee's thirty-seventh session (15 January to 2 February 2007) will be before the Commission.

Advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women

In its resolution 50/3, the Commission decided, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2006/8) and the requested views thereon, to consider at its fifty-first session the advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women, bearing in mind the existing mechanisms with a view to avoiding duplication. The report before the Commission (E/CN.6/2007/8) complements the Secretary-General's previous report on this subject (E/CN.6/2006/8) and should be read in conjunction with it.

Proposed programme of work

Regulation 4.8 of the United Nations Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, stipulates that "The programmes and subprogrammes of the proposed medium-term plan shall be reviewed by the relevant sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies, if possible during the regular cycle of their meetings, prior to their review by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly". The proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2008-2009 will be before the Commission for information.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child (E/CN.6/2007/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2007/4)

Report on the joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.6/2007/5)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women (E/CN.6/2007/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on the advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women (E/CN.6/2007/8)

Documents for information

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for peace and security (A/61/326–S/2006/727)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions (A/61/38)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the thirty-seventh session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2007/CRP.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2008-2009 (E.CN.6/2007/CRP.2)

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution 76 (V), the Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications concerning the status of women. In its resolution 304 I (XI), the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution 1993/11, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 2002/235, the Council decided, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission more effective and efficient:

(a) That the Commission, starting at its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session with a view to enabling the Working Group to review the communications before it and finalize its report to be issued three days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;

(b) To request the Secretary-General:

(i) To inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that would be considered by the Commission and give them at least

12 weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group;

(ii) To ensure that the members of the Working Group receive in advance the lists of communications, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its report for examination by the Commission.

At its resumed 14th meeting, on 16 March 2006, the Commission appointed Jiakun Guo (China), Jennifer Feller (Mexico) and Janne Jokinen (Finland) as members of the Working Group. The Commission also decided to authorize the two candidates to be appointed to fill the outstanding posts to participate fully in the work of the Working Group once endorsed by their respective regional groups.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2007/SW/Communications List No. 41).

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2007/SW/Communications List No. 41, addendum).

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

The Commission will have before it a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council on follow-up to the Council's policy recommendations.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/27, functional commissions were invited to provide concise, action-oriented input to the Council's annual high-level segment. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat as an input to the 2007 high-level segment of the Council.

Documentation

Letter dated 2 November 2006 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2007/7)

Note by the Secretariat as an input to the 2007 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2007/CRP.3).

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission will have before it a draft provisional agenda for its fifty-second session, including the list of documents to be submitted for its consideration.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-first session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its fifty-first session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Monday, 26 February		
10 a.m.	1. Election of officers	Approval of nominees to membership in the Working Group on Communications
	2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	
	3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"	Introduction of reports General discussion
3 p.m.	3 (a) (i). Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child	High-level round table on experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data, where available, in relation to the implementation of previous commitments made with regard to the priority theme
Tuesday, 27 February		
10 a.m.	3 (a) (i). Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child	Interactive expert panel on key policy initiatives to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child
3 p.m.	3 (c). Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters	An interactive expert panel on capacity-building on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Wednesday, 28 February*		
10 a.m.	3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"	General discussion
3 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	General discussion
Thursday, 1 March		
10 a.m.	3 (*continued*)	General discussion
3 p.m.	Item 3 (b). Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men	Interactive expert panel on the theme "Elimination of all forms of violence against women: follow-up to the Secretary-General's in-depth study at national and international levels"
Friday, 2 March		
10 a.m.	3 (a) (ii). Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: evaluation of progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality	Interactive dialogue to evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on "The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality"
3 p.m.	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions)
Monday, 5 March		
10 a.m.	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions)
3 p.m.	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations
Tuesday, 6 March		
10 a.m.	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions)
3 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Introduction of draft proposals
	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Wednesday, 7 March		
10 a.m.	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations (Agreed conclusions)
12 noon-1 p.m.	5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions	
3 p.m.	4. Communications concerning the status of women	Closed meeting to consider the report of the Working Group on Communications
	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations
Thursday, 8 March		
10 a.m.-12 noon	(Commemorative event)[b]	Observance of International Women's Day (2 hours)
3 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Action on draft proposals
	3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Informal consultations
Friday, 9 March		
10 a.m.	3 (*continued*)	Action on draft proposals
	6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Commission	Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Commission
3 p.m.	7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-first session	Adoption of the report
		Closure of the session
		Election of officers

[a] An informal panel on "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women" will be held from 1 to 3 p.m.
[b] Informal event to be held on the margin of the fifty-first session of the Commission.

Annex II

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-first session (2007)

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Algeria	2007
Armenia	2007
Belgium	2007
Belize	2009
Bolivia	2007
Brazil	2010
Cameroon	2010
Canada	2007
China	2008
Congo	2007
Croatia	2009
Djibouti	2010
Dominican Republic	2008
Ecuador	2010
El Salvador	2008
Germany	2009
Ghana	2008
Hungary	2008
Iceland	2008
India	2007
Indonesia	2010
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2010
Japan	2009
Kazakhstan	2008
Lesotho	2010

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Malaysia	2010
Mali	2009
Mauritius	2008
Mexico	2010
Morocco	2009
Netherlands	2009
Nigeria	2007
Peru	2009
Qatar	2009
Republic of Korea	2010
Russian Federation	2007
Suriname	2008
Thailand	2007
Togo	2010
Turkey	2007
United Arab Emirates	2010
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2009
United Republic of Tanzania	2009
United States of America	2008
Zambia	2010